

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 13, 2008

Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary of Labor
U.S. Department of Labor
200 Constitution Avenue, NW
Room S 2220
Washington, DC 20210

Dear Secretary Chao:

Americans all across the country are anxious about our nation's energy challenges. They are concerned about our current dependence on fossil fuels and continue to look for a new focus on clean energy sources.

President Bush signed H.R. 6, the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (P.L. 110-140), into law on December 19, 2007. This legislation included a program to bolster America's workforce, specifically, the workforce that will be needed as we increase the use of renewables and energy efficiency to meet our energy needs. Title X of P.L. 110-140 ("Green Jobs") creates a sustainable, comprehensive public program to be administered by the Secretary of Labor to provide quality training for jobs created through renewable energy and energy efficiency initiatives.

Experts agree: a major national investment in renewable energy and energy efficiency could create millions of jobs over the next ten years. According to the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, however, the lack of skilled workers is the largest non-technical barrier to the advancement of renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies. As joint authors of Title X, we believe that the programs contained within will not only help fill the void of skilled workers but will also support the continued growth of these sectors.

We wrote you in January of this year regarding our interest in seeing the Department quickly implement the program (copy of that letter attached for your reference). As you are well aware, the statute specifies, in part, "Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of the Green Jobs Act of 2007, the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Energy, shall establish an energy efficiency and renewable energy worker training program." Unfortunately, we now find that the six month deadline for establishing the program has elapsed. Further delay is unacceptable.

The Green Jobs training program can help us to meet our energy needs, create new jobs and grow the economy. Please reply to our offices as soon as possible with your timeline and plans for putting this vital program into action.

Sincerely,



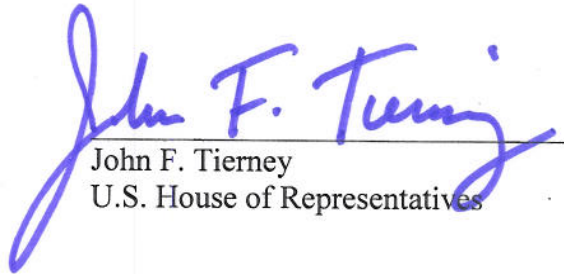
Bernard Sanders
U.S. Senate



Hillary Rodham Clinton
U.S. Senate



Hilda L. Solis
U.S. House of Representatives



John F. Tierney
U.S. House of Representatives

enclosure